

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 07644 031148Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 W
-----060784 040310Z /64
R 022129Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO USDOC WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8628

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PASS TO OED/MEPD AND OIM

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, VE

REF: A) CARACAS 6787, PARA 4; B) CARACAS 1793, C) CARACAS 1997

1. MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINES TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT OLEFINS PLANT IN EL TABLAZO IS STILL SHUT DOWN FOR SURVEY. GOV FEELS THE NED TO BRING IN A QUALIFIED ENGINEERING FIRM TO ENTIRELY REWORK PLANT. HE MENTIONED A NUMBER OF U.S. ENGINEERING FIRMS AS CANDIDATES TO DO REWORK. PULLMAN-KELLOGG APPARENTLY WILLING TO PERFORM THIS FUNCTION ALSO.

2. HOWEVER, MINISTER VALENTIN HERNANDEZ FEELS THAT ANOTHER SIZEABLE CONTRACT WITH PULLMAN-KELLOGG POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS TIME. ORIGINAL CONTRACT WITH M.W. KELLOGG HAS CLAUSE RELATIVE TO PROTECTION OF KELLOGG PROCESS TECHNOLOGY AND BLUE PRINTS. ACCESS TO THIS INFORMATION NECESSARY FOR ENGINEERING CONSULTANT TO CARRY OUT TASKS. MINISTER WILL CALL PRESIDENT OF PULLMAN-KELLOGG NEXT WEEK TO REQUEST RELEASE FROM THIS CONTRACTUAL PROVISION.

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3. THE MINISTER ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO HELP ON THIS MATTER, SUGGESTING THAT PULLMAN CORPORATION'S OVERALL INTERESTS IN VENEZUELA WILL NOT BE HELPED IF PULLMAN-KELLOGG BLOCKS THIS REQUEST.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY LIMITS ITSELF TO OBSERVING THAT THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF

PULLMAN CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS. NATIONAL PETROCHEMICAL INSTITUTE HAS SHOWN DISTRESSING INABILITY TO RUN ITS OPERATIONS PROPERLY BUT MINISTRY APPEARS TO BE TRYING TO CORRECT MAJOR PROBLEMS BEFORE TRANSFERRING INDUSTRY TO PETROLEOS DE VENEZUELA. EMBASSY BELIEVES KELLOGG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING UP TO NOW AND HAS IMPRESSION THAT COOPERATION AT TECHNICAL LEVEL HAS BEEN GOOD. NONETHELESS, WE MUST OBSERVE THAT IN A POLITICALLY CHARGED ATMOSPHERE, I.E., PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES JUST NOMINATED, AND WITH THIS PARTICULAR CONTRACT SUBJECTED TO CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM AND CHARGES OF CORRUPTION, WE SHARE THE MINISTR'S VIEWPOINT THAT ANOTHER CONTRACT WITH KELLOGG ON THE OLEFINS PLANT IS POLITICALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR THIS GOVERNMENT.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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SAS ID: 1423363
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Subject: ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION
TAGS: BENC, VE
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